



*The Bigarreau Cherry.*

XLVI.

THE BIGARREAU CHERRY.

The above name is applied by DU HAMEL to several varieties, forming a tribe in the class of *heart-shaped* cherries; but the individual which is here represented, and is well known to every gardener, does not appear to have been described among those varieties, and approaches nearer to the *ambree*, though this is ranged by the above-named naturalist in the class of round cherries. This division into two classes does not appear to be grounded on those positive and certain characters which are requisite; the gradation in the form of cherries, from heart-shaped to round, being uncertain and often imperceptible, occurring not unfrequently on the same tree; and indeed the *ambree*, which is classed among the round fruits, is admitted by DU HAMEL to be of cordate form, and the tree to resemble in most respects those of the class of heart-shaped cherries.

The Bigarreau is a tree of luxuriant growth, though evidently exhibiting the characters of age and debility, and can by no means be recommended as a productive variety. The beautiful appearance and excellent quality of its fruit, which, when ripened in a favourable exposure, is not surpassed by any of the kinds at present cultivated, renders it still worthy of culture.